

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Christian Citizenship
Stand-Alone Sermon

ICEBREAKER: What phobias have you struggled with?

OVERVIEW: Christians have a dual citizenship. We are both citizens of heaven and earth. We are citizens of the kingdom of God, and the United States of America. What does it mean to love God and country at the same time? What role should Christians play in politics? In this study we will go deeper with 1 Timothy 2:1-7 and our civic duty as followers of Christ.

1. **Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Theologian Wayne Grudem gives several wrong views of Christian involvement in government: 1) government should compel religion; 2) government should exclude religion; 3) do evangelism, not politics; 4) do politics and not evangelism. The right view is significant Christian influence on government. What is wrong with the four incorrect views?
3. 1 Timothy 2:2 instructs us to pray for our government. Is this all we should do as Christians? Explain.
4. How should we pray for our government?

5. 1 Timothy 2:2 gives us the three-fold purpose of government:
 - 1) So that we may lead tranquil lives: The protection of life and property from enemies, foreign and domestic.
 - 2) So that we may lead quiet lives: The protection of life and property from government intrusion and interference.
 - 3) So that we may live in godliness and dignity: The protection of the freedom to live wholeheartedly for Jesus Christ.How does the US government stand up to 1 Timothy 2:2? How does our government need to change to better reflect its biblical purpose?
6. How does it help our country when Christians live in godliness and dignity?
7. What happens when society becomes more and more sinful?
8. What can we do to reverse the growing trend toward sinfulness in our country?

The Last Word: "We have no government armed with the power capable of contending with human passions, unbridled by morality and true religion. Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." John Adams